

Report to the Planning and Zoning Commission

Prepared by the Maricopa County Planning and Development Department

Case: TA2006010

Subject: Drainage Policies and Standards Manual

Meeting Date: October 5, 2006

Agenda Item: 10

Supervisor District: All

Proposal: A Text Amendment to adopt the Drainage Policies and Standards Manual

Background:

1. **April 20, 1987:** The Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted the "Uniform Drainage Policies and Standards for Maricopa County, Arizona" by resolution. This document was in use until the Drainage Design Manual (DDM) was adopted in the 1990s but is still referenced today.
2. **March 27, 1991:** The Hydrology Manual (Volume 1) of the DDM was adopted by the Flood Control District Board of Directors. Staff was unable to determine the exact dates when the Hydraulics Manual (Volume 2) and the Erosion Control Manual (Volume 3) were adopted.
3. **January 1, 1993:** The latest revision to the Erosion Control Manual (Vol. 3) was released.
4. **January 1, 1995:** The latest revision to the Hydrology Manual was released.
5. **January 28, 1996:** The latest revision to the Hydraulics Manual was released.
6. **C.1998:** The Flood Control District entered into discussions with the City of Phoenix regarding adoption of the DDM; however, the City of Phoenix agreed to adopt the DDM; however, the municipalities requested that certain County policies and standards be removed from the DDM prior to adoption. The three volumes of the DDM were revised and updated. The City of Phoenix then prepared their own drainage policies and standards document that adopts use of the newly revised DDM. The new County drainage policies and standards

document was subsequently prepared. A standard outline was used that is common to both the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County documents. Other municipalities within Maricopa County may soon use the standard outline and prepare their own policy and standards document.

7. **January 2006:** County agencies, including Planning and Development, the Flood Control District, MCDOT, and Environmental Services initiated work group discussions on the possible adoption of a joint drainage policy document.
8. **April 20, 2006:** The proposed DPSM was initially presented to the Zoning Implementation, Policy, Procedure and Ordinance Review (ZIPPOR) Committee at their regular meeting and a case number initiated.
9. **July 2006:** The proposed policy manual was distributed for public comment and links to the full document were posted on the Flood Control District's web site.
10. **August 17, 2006:** This request was presented to the ZIPPOR Committee for action. The ZIPPOR Committee recommended allowing additional time for public comment be given so that more agencies could submit recommendations for this document. In addition, the ZIPPOR Committee recommended that this request be forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Commission for public hearing after the extended comment period was over.
11. **August 2006:** The public comment period was extended until September 20, 2006. Staff solicited additional comment on the draft document through the Home Builders Association (HBA). The HBA announced the opportunity to comment on the draft document through their membership newsletter.

Findings:

12. **Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT):** No response at the time this report was written; however, this agency has been involved with drafting this document.
13. **Flood Control District (FCD):** No objections to the request.
14. **Environmental Services Department (MCESD):** No response at the time this report was written; however, this agency has been involved with drafting this document.
15. **Drainage Administration:** No objections.
16. **Other:** This request was routed to approximately 450 outside agencies and entities. Comments have been few, but generally positive (see attached). No

negative comments or opposition had been received at the time this report was written.

Discussion:

17. This is a request to adopt a new Drainage Policies and Standards Manual (DPSM) for Maricopa County. This manual is a policy and standards document only and not a regulations manual. It is intended to be an implementation guide for the Floodplain Regulations and the Drainage Regulations. The DPSM will make County drainage design policies more readily accessible, up to date with current national standards and easy to understand. It should be noted that the DDM will remain in modified form; however, the DPSM will take precedence in the hierarchy of documents utilized by Drainage and the Flood Control District. The following extract from the DPSM indicates the purpose of this manual:

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance and detail on implementation of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) Floodplain Regulations and the Maricopa County (County) Drainage Regulations. It is intended that drainage studies, plans, design reports, construction drawings and accompanying drainage/floodplain use permit applications prepared in accordance with the philosophies, policies and minimum standards contained herein will meet the minimum requirements of the governing regulations. This will expedite the review, approval and permitting processes and help meet the missions of both Maricopa County and the District.

18. In addition to assisting applicants by clarifying the application of regulatory standards within the MC Floodplain Regulations and MC Drainage Regulations, this request will also further the goal of having municipalities within Maricopa County adopt the modified DDM. Previously, these municipalities were reluctant to adopt the DDM as written due to various County policies and standards that did not fit design practices within the various cities and towns. These policies and standards are being removed from the DDM through this process so that the revised document can be adopted by the City of Phoenix and other municipalities throughout the County. In addition, the revised DDM will be adopted through the Flood Control District Board of Directors along with the DPSM.

Analysis:

19. Detailed technical analysis of this document has been accomplished by County agencies that would be affected by the adoption of this manual. In addition, the document was routed out to over 450 agencies for review and comment. While the number of comments regarding this document have been few, the comments received generally praised the document while requesting some changes. The Flood Control District is in the process of reviewing these comments to determine

if the proposed changes are reasonable and prudent. Limited public comment may be due to the fact that the policies and guidelines have been available to the public for many years and, while there have been a few technical updates; the majority of the information reflects existing practice.

20. Adoption of this manual will assist in clarifying the County's approach to drainage issues. The Drainage Design Manual, from which this manual has been distilled, is a massive, three volume, technical set. The specific policies and standards laid out in this manual help to make clear the County's take on the design of drainage features. Adopting this manual will also pave the way for adoption of the revised DDM through the Board of Directors. The DDM was reviewed in 2005 but has been waiting on the creation and adoption of the DPSM before moving forward for approval. Staff recommends that this manual be approved for the reasons outlined below.

Recommendation:

21. Staff recommends **approval** of **TA2006010** and forwarded it to the Board of Supervisors for final action for the following reasons:
- This document will update existing policies and standards to bring them more in line with nationwide standards.
 - This document will reduce confusion among private sector developers and engineers with regards to County policies regarding drainage.
 - Reviewing agencies support the adoption of this document.
 - Staff has received no objections to the adoption of this document.
 - Adoption of this document will allow for the adoption of the amended Drainage Design Manual through the Flood Control District.

clh

Attachments: E-mail comments (5 pages)
Home Builder's Association Notice (1 page)

Enclosure: Drainage Policies and Procedures Manual (83 pages)